

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 SAM-01 TRSE-00 /089 W

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R 151050Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2878

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ML, SA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MALI FOREIGN MINISTER TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: BAMAKO 4193

1. WE SHARED THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS AHMED SIRAJ ON NOVEMBER 12. HE WAS PLEASED AT OUR CONSULTATION AND GRATEFUL FOR THE INFORMATION ON FONMIN CHARLES SAMBA CISSOKHO.

2. SIRAJ SAID THAT THE SAG HAD BEEN OBSERVING COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN MALI WITH SOME CONCERN: FIRST THE RUSSIANS WHO OFFERED TOO LITTLE AND BADLY MANAGED WHAT THEY GAVE AND THEN THE CHINESE WHO GAVE EVEN LESS BUT ADMINISTERED IT WITH SUCH SKILL AND ATTENTION THAT THEY HAD BECOME POPULARS WITH THE MALIANS. HE SAID THAT THE SAG WAS NOT SURPRISED BY THIS COMMUNIST SUCCESS SINCE IN MUCH OF AFRICA THE PEOPLE ARE SO POOR THAT THEY WOULD MAKE A PACT WITH THE DEVIL TO GET A BIT OF HELP.

3. AT THE SAME TIME SAUDI ARABIA DID NOT LIKE TO SEE THE GROTWTH OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN MALI. IT HAD, THERE-
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FORE, BEEN QUITE GENEROUS IN PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

OVER THE LAST YEAR SAUDI ARABIA HAD OFFERED THIRTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS AID. FIVE MILLION OF THIS WAS IN THE FORM OF CASH "GIFTS" AND HAD ALREADY BEEN DISTRIBUTED. THE REMAINING THIRTY MILLION WOULD BE DISBURSED AS PROJECTS ARE SUBMITTED AND APPROVED. (COMMENT: THOUGH THE SAUDIS HAVE BECOME QUITE OPEN-HANDED, THEY DON'T LIKE TO SEE THEIR MONEY SQUANDERED. THEY DON'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO ADMINISTER THEIR OWN AID FUNDS AND, THEREFORE, USUALLY REQUIRE THAT PROJECTS HAVE THE APPROVAL OF A MAJOR LENDING INSTITUTION SUCH AS THE IBRD BEFORE THEY WILL AUTHORIZE THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.)

4. REPEATING HIS THANKS FOR OUR INFORMATION, SIRAJ ADDED THAT THERE WAS GREAT SCOPE FOR SAUDI-US COOPERATION TO COMBAT THE GROWTH OF COMMUNISM AND RADICALISM IN AFRICA. AKINS

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